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THE EARLIEST AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS ON NUMISMATICS A REDISCOVERY

Eric P. Newman

The earliest piece of numismatic literature published in America on American coins has remained virtually unknown. While it was proceeded by several publications on American medals the idea of making the detail and history of American coins available for study was slow to develop. In determining what is a numismatic publication as distinguished from what was printed in the course of planning, producing, distributing or circulating coinage, paper money or medals there is a blurred line and opinions may vary as to classification. However, the beginnings of American numismatic literature reveal some curious and unusual printed articles.

Modern numismatic bibliophiles have generally accepted the earliest American publication of a truly numismatic nature as Joseph B. Felt's *An Historical Account of Massachusetts Currency* (Boston 1839). An American numismatic pinnacle was reached soon thereafter by Jacob R. Eckfeldt and William E. DuBois when they wrote *A Manual of Gold and Silver Coins of All Nations*, (Philadelphia 1842).

American Publications Not Intended as Numismatic Literature

The first American publication concerning coins as collectibles was printed by B. Franklin and D. Hall in 1757 and is a list of 42 Roman coins (referred to as medals) held by the Library Company of Philadelphia. Another inventory of these and many additional numismatic holdings was published by that library in 1807. Included were four Massachusetts shillings, one Massachusetts 6 pence, one Chalmer's 6 pence and five American medals as well as European and Asiatic coins and medals. These listings contained only simple data describing the pieces.

According to David Humphreys in his 1787 letter to *The American Museum*, American Revolutionary War medals were officially awarded to instill patriotism, to recognize and celebrate heroic achievement, to encourage emulation, and to memorialize people and events. That magazine, in its August 1787 issue, published the letter along with a description of the devices and inscriptions on medals for George Washington, Horatio Gates, and Nathaniel Greene. Other medals were mentioned but not described. Robert Morris, Thomas Jefferson¹ and Benjamin Franklin had worked with Humphreys in the planning and preparation of these awards, and additional examples were arranged for diplomatic gifts and other purposes. In his letter Humphreys also commented that he had not seen any published description of those medals and that there existed a "practice of depositing them in the cabinets of the curious." Thus he recognized the need for numismatic literature on the subject of medals.

The meaning of the emblems and Latin mottoes on the first Continental Currency paper money issue dated May 10, 1775 was not generally understood by the public, and an explanation and translation was first published in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of September 20, 1775 and followed in the

Pennsylvania Magazine of December 1775. Many other publications of matters concerning American paper money (governmental and bank notes) during the eighteenth and early nineteenth century related to its value, legal tender status, depreciation, counterfeiting, redemption and other economic features, not involving the study of it.² A historic summary of these topics was published by William M. Gouge in *Paper Money and Banking in the United States* (Philadelphia 1833, etc.) and is not intended to be numismatic.

The writings covering the planning of coinage for the United States written by Benjamin Franklin, Robert Morris, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, Robert Beale Bordley, Thomas Paine and others covered the establishment of coinage standards for the United States and were not of numismatic intent.

In 1789 Bordley³ specifically named Virginia halfpence, Nova Constellatio coppers, English halfpence circulating in America (both genuine and counterfeit), and other foreign copper money used in America, but only as a basis for planning copper coinage for the United States. His publication also included specie coinage suggestions and was followed by a supplement in 1790.

The early publication in America of exchange calculation matters in books, almanacs, pamphlets, tables and newspapers as well as arithmetical and accountancy instruction books were for commercial purposes and only incidentally provide some numismatic information. The U.S. Mint Reports were operational data and not for numismatic purposes, but naturally contain much pertinent information for numismatic studies.

Beginnings of American Numismatic Articles

Pierre Eugene du Simitiere (1737-1784) had prepared an inventory of much of his collection of coins, paper money, and medals which were displayed in a museum in Philadelphia in 1782-1784. Being an artist he also had partially completed a numismatic manuscript describing and drawing in superb detail examples of American coins. Unfortunately his work was never completed or published.⁴

On June 9, 1818 at a New York Historical Society meeting James Mease, M.D. (1771-1846), a Philadelphia member, gave a detailed description of 17 medals struck to commemorate events in North America up to 1804. It also included the persons and classes of persons to whom War of 1812 medals were awarded. No coins were mentioned. This study was published in *The Collections of the New York Historical Society*, Vol. III (New York 1821) pp. 387-404 and contained extensive footnotes describing some of the events giving rise to distribution of the medals. This imprint appears to be the first truly numismatic article published in America. It was revised and shortened by Mease and republished in *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Third Series, Vol. IV (Cambridge 1834), pp. 297-308. In these two versions the word "face" was sometimes selected to designate the obverse, but the available word Obverse was never used. The words "reverse," "device," "legend" and "exergue" were consistently used with proper technical application.

The use of the word "Face" in a description of a coin or medal created confusion before the word "Obverse" was fully accepted. "Face" could mean the head side or it could mean either side. In an entry on September 2, 1787 in the manuscript diary of Reverend William Bentley⁵ of Salem, Massachusetts, he undertakes to describe Vermont, New York and Connecticut coppers as well as counterfeit British halfpence. He first uses the word "face" as referring to each side of the coin. Then he compares the face on Connecticut coppers to the face of the "Georges" on the counterfeit British coppers, applying the word reverse when describing the side with the date. Finally he states that "the New York & Connecticut coin face opposite ways." We must face up to Bentley's having failed to make an about face in order to save face by using the word "obverse."

A subsequent American numismatic publication was a listing of 38 American medals prepared by Joshua F. Fisher (1808-1873), also a Philadelphian, and was included in *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Third Series, Vol. VI (Boston 1837), pp. 286-293.⁶ It was a description of 14 medals dedicated to George Washington, five medals to Benjamin Franklin, one medal to Thomas Jefferson, one medal to Dr. Benjamin Rush, three medals of the American Revolution and 14 American colonial medals. One of these medals was the coin-size Pitt "halfpenny" token struck to celebrate the repeal of the Stamp Act and dated 1766. The Washington medal commemorating the Evacuation of Boston by the British, described in detail in Mease as Item #4, is specifically included by reference in Fisher as his Item #2. With that exception there are no medals previously listed in Mease which are included or referred to in Fisher, even though his title was "Description of American Medals." The 1837 Fisher publication uses the word "obverse" consistently and does not use the word "face." The other technical numismatic terms used by Mease are consistently retained in Fisher's presentation.

In 1838 there appeared another numismatic article by Mease entitled "Old American Coins." It is described by its author as consisting of some American coins issued before the establishment of the Constitutional government of the United States. It is the first numismatic article on American coins published in America and is included in *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Third Series, Vol. VII (Boston 1838) pp. 282-283. It describes nine copper coins, namely the Bar Cent, a 1722 Rosa Americana, a 1787 Fugio cent, a 1788 Massachusetts cent, a Condor token, a 1785 Nova Constellatio copper, a New Jersey copper, a 1787 Connecticut copper and a 1773 Virginia halfpenny. The status of that article and its content seem so important and previously unknown that its entire text is separately included as part of this commentary.

The description of the Bar Cent in Mease's listing is extremely probative as that coin's only prior known mention appears to be in the December 19, 1785 *New Jersey Gazette* (Trenton).

The Conder token is described as having such a poorly cut date that it cannot be read. Its legends and description show that its date is 1794 (not 1784) and it was subsequently classified as Dalton & Hamer, Cork #14.

The 1722 Rosa Americana is commented upon as being a similar type to a coin found in the ground while digging the foundation for St. Phillips Church in Charleston, South Carolina in 1835. Another Rosa Americana coin found in April 1835 in a garden in Washington, Pennsylvania near Brooke County, West Virginia (then Virginia) is also mentioned. Both of these finds were reported in newspapers which future researchers may be able to locate.

The New Jersey copper is given the non-existent date of 1785, the understandable error being due to the unclear die cutting of the last numeral on the date on many of the 1786 New Jersey pieces.

The most spectacular comment concerns the copper coinage of Connecticut. Mease states "This is the old farthing of our boyhood." Mease was born in 1771 and was 14 years of age when the first Connecticut coppers were minted and 16 years of age when the plethora of 1787 coppers were struck. He lived in Philadelphia. The major collapse of the circulating value of Connecticut and most other circulating coppers occurred in the middle of 1789, whereupon the exchange rate of coppers in New York money of account was set by both the City of New York and the City of Albany at 48 to the shilling or one farthing New York money of account for each copper. Almost one year later on June 7, 1790 a committee report to the General Assembly of New Jersey confirms a similar value for Connecticut and counterfeit British coppers by stating that they can be bought at 45 to the shilling for overstriking with New Jersey dies. It also states that such coppers pass from 48 to 36 for a shilling, if at all.⁷ New Jersey money of account was valued at the same rate as that of Pennsylvania.

Mease's use of the word "farthing" is the only known use applied to any coppers then in circulation in the United States including the Connecticut coppers. It is applied by one who actually circulated Connecticut coppers. Mease lived in Philadelphia and even though Pennsylvania money of account was 7 shillings 6 pence to the Spanish dollar in contrast with New York money of account at 8 shillings to the Spanish dollar, he indicated that such coppers were accepted for a farthing in Pennsylvania money of account. This confirms the actuality of an exchange rate for coppers conforming generally to the 1789 New York municipality recommendations. It is amusing to realize that American or British counterfeits of British halfpence were circulating in America at that time apparently as farthings in money of account, as there were no actual British farthings (genuine or counterfeit) then in circulation in America according to the New York report of March 5, 1787.⁸

Comparison with Foreign Publications on American Money

Early numismatic publications in England such as Pepys, Leake, Haym (the Pembroke Collection), Snelling, Ruding and others include some early American coins issued prior to the American Revolution, but nothing numismatic prior to 1838 seems to have been published in Europe covering American coinage after American independence, except perhaps the description of the 1776 Continental Currency pewter coinage by Richard Watson in *Chemical Essays* (London 1786), Vol. IV, pp. 135-137.

There are various European exchange books which included American coins minted after independence,⁹ but these books cannot be construed to be numismatic in nature, and copper coin was customarily excluded from them.

The Rediscovery

How were the Mease and Fisher items located when they do not seem to be indexed or included in present numismatic bibliographies or libraries? The answer is the detailed information included in the catalog of one of George F. Kolbe's numismatic book auctions. Lot 450 in his December 8, 1991 catalogue was *Norton's Literary Letter №3* (New York 1859) containing the first published address given at the American Numismatic Society. The discourse by William S. Fredrick Mayers, who died in China in 1878, was entitled "The Literature of American Numismatics" and was presented to members of the American Numismatic Society on November 19, 1858 in New York during the first year of that society's existence. *The American Numismatic Society 1858-1958* by Howard L. Adelson records the event but not the publication of Mayers' talk.

The content of "The Literature of American Numismatics" features the great progress of American numismatic investigation and states that in 1843 knowledge of American numismatics was confined to a very few individuals in the United States in comparison with a greater number in England. Mayers mentions that American coin collectors were then being referred to as "monomaniacs." The discourse then notes the deep interest of Mease and Fisher in American numismatics and the publication of their work by the societies of which they were members. Specific citations for their articles as published in 1821, 1834, 1837 and 1838 are given. There was no reference to Humphrey's 1787 article on American medals printed in *The American Museum*, but Bordley's 1789 pamphlet was cited.

Acknowledgement

Being unaware of the Mease and Fisher material, the mention of it in Kolbe's description of the Mayers' item piqued my curiosity. A visit to a historical library opened a new vista for me. I had merely rediscovered what Mayers already had carefully expostulated 134 years ago. I thank George F. Kolbe for creating that opportunity. I also am grateful to Thomas D. Serfass, Michael J. Hodder, Phil Lapsansky and Francis D. Campbell for their suggestions and cooperation. If someone else since 1859 has pointed out or cited the Mease and Fisher numismatic literary contributions, I will be glad to apologize.

Endnotes

¹ *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson* (Princeton, 1961) Vol 16, pp. 53-79, xxxv-xlii, pl. I-XXIX.

² Eric P. Newman, *The Early Paper Money of America*, third edition, (Iola, 1990)

³ *On Monies, Coins, Weights, and Measures* (Philadelphia, 1789)

⁴ Joel J. Orosz, *The Eagle that is Forgotten*, (Wolseboro, 1988)

⁵ *The Diary of William Bentley, D.D.*, (Gloucester Mass, 1962) Vol I, pp. 73-74.

⁶ The name of Joshua Francis Fisher was erroneously referred to in the article as J. S. Fisher. He was not from Baltimore as stated in Norton's Literary Letter №3 of 1859, but from Philadelphia.

⁷ "Notes and Proceedings of the Fourteenth General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, (New Brunswick, 1790), pp. 50-51; Michael J. Hodder, "New Jersey Reverse J, a Biennial Die," *American Journal of Numismatics*, Second Series, I (New York, 1989), p. 236.

⁸ *The American Museum* (Philadelphia), October 1787, Vol. II, №4, pp. 403-404; Sylvester S. Crosby, *The Early Coins of America* (Boston 1875), pp. 290-292.

⁹ For example: Pierre Fredric Bonneville, *Traite des Monnaies D'or et D'argent* (Paris, 1806).

[The following account of some American coins, issued before the establishment of the present government, by some of the States, was furnished by Doctor J. A. Mease, of Philadelphia].

No. 1. This coin is larger than a half cent. On one side it has thirteen ribs or bars which run parallel to, and are equi-distant from each other. On the other side are the letters U. S. A. the S. being of larger size, running across the other two letters. It has no date nor any other inscription.

No. 2. On one side a head surrounded by "Georgius. Dei. Gratia. Rex." On the other side is a rose and the following inscription, "Rosæ Americana. Utile. Dulci. 1722."

No. 3. On one side a chain of thirteen circular links running around the face of the coin. In the centre a circle, having upon it the words "We are one," and around these words, "United States." On the other side there is a sun at meridian height, looking down upon a dial, beneath which appear these words, "Mind your business." The word "Fugio," and the date 1787 also appear on the same side of the coin.

No. 4. On one side the American Eagle, having on its breast a shield, with the word CENT upon it. Around the face of the Coin is "Massachusetts 1788." On the other side is an Indian at full length with his bow and arrow, and the word COMMONWEALTH.

No. 5. On one side a sheaf of wheat, and the words "PEACE AND PLENTY;" on the other, a full length portrait of Fame blowing her trumpet, and these words. "FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PUBLIC." There is a date upon it, but the third figure is so badly done, as to leave a doubt whether it is 1784, or some earlier period.

No. 6. On one side a Sun, with *thirteen* stars around it, and the words "NOVA CONSTELLATIO;" on the other, the letters U. S. surrounded by a vignette, and the words "LIBERTAS ET JUSTITIA 1785."

No. 7. Is the Jersey Half-penny, having on one side a shield, surrounded by the words "E. PLURIBUS UNUM;" on the other a Horse's head and a plough, with the words "NOVA CÆSAREA, 1785."

No. 8. On one side a head and the word "AUCTORI CONNEC," on the other a female figure very much in the form of a gingerbread child, holding what may be an olive branch in one hand, and a bow and arrow in the other, with the date below it of 1787. This is the old farthing of our boyhood.

No. 9. Has on one side a head, and the words "Georgius III Rex." On the opposite side is a shield cut into quarters, containing respectively the coats of arms of England, Scotland, Ireland and Virginia, surmounted with a crown, and surrounded with "Virginia, 1773." A coin similar to this was a year or two ago dug up in a garden, and with the description given of it, there was published the following history.

The following historical facts are here distinctly referred to. During the usurpation of Cromwell, the colony of Virginia refused to acknowledge his authority, and declared itself independent. Shortly after, finding that Cromwell threatened to send a fleet and army to reduce Virginia to subjection, and fearing the ability of this feeble state to withstand this force, she sent over in a small ship, a messenger to Charles II., then an exile, at Breda, in Flanders. Charles accepted the invitation to come over, and be king of Virginia, and was on the eve of embarking, when he was recalled to the throne of England. As soon as he was restored to the crown of England, in gratitude for the loyalty of Virginia, he caused her coat of arms to be quartered with those of England, Scotland, and Ireland, as an independent member of the Empire. The above coin is clearly confirmatory of these facts. Hence the origin of the phrase "Old Dominion," frequently applied to Virginia.

The coin No. 2, resembles very much, one lately found in Charleston, and of which the following account was published in the Charleston papers:

CURIOS COIN.—The workmen in preparing the foundation of St. Phillips Church, have found a Coin, the age of which is now 113 years, with the head of George the First. The inscription around which is—Georgius, D. G. Mag. Bri. Fra. Et. Hib. Rex. On the opposite side is a Rose—the inscription, Rosa, Americana, 1722, Utile Dulci. It probably is a coin of one of the Old Thirteen Colonies. Another of these coins was found in April, 1835, in digging a garden in Washington; Pensis, bordering on Brook County, Virginia.—J. M.

Notes on the Literature of South African Tokens

Russell Hibbs

As every Bibliomaniac knows we learn a lot from just reading catalog descriptions. In The Money Tree's Sale 13 of (March 1992), lot №614 on page 62 states that E. J. Maynard's *Tokens of Southern Africa* is a rare book. They state that the only other copy they could trace was in Kolbe's Sale 9 (June 1981), lot №205 page 27. Here the volume was described as "viii, 237 pp, printed on rectos only. 33 x 20½ cm. Stapled paper covers." Kolbe's estimate of \$50 turned into a \$160 sale (and this before the advent of the 10% Buyer's Fee). The cataloguer believes that few copies of this book were produced and only a minimal number exist outside of Southern Africa. I believe I can shed a little more light on this particular book as well as on South African tokens in general.

In May, 1967, as I was preparing to live in Germany under a full three year military grant from Uncle Sam, I ordered this book from a notice in Spink's *Numismatic Circular*, Vol 75:5 (May, 1967) page 156 (Item # B12755). It simply stated:

"Maynard, E. J., *Tokens of Southern Africa*, 237 cyclostyled pages, no illustrations. Paper cover, stapled. 1966. No price stated. Probably the most complete work ever published on this series. Mrs. Maynard is to be congratulated on her detailed work, well arranged and indexed."

Since I was ordering some Hong Kong .05 pieces from the same list, I included an order for the book, being only slightly bothered by the advertisement stating "No price stated." The coin department at Spink referred my order to the book department and in a very short time I received the following letter (copy enclosed) which succinctly stated:

"We have pleasure in sending you a copy of Mrs. Maynard's book 'Tokens of Southern Africa.' We have been instructed by the Johannesburg Museum to make no charge for this."

This had to be the all-time best buy I ever made on a book! Spink even mailed it to me free!! However it was three years later before I actually saw the book since it was forwarded to a sister-in-law to be kept until I returned from Germany. I then had it bound in green cloth. Naturally any of these books which today are bound were done so by the "buyer" or should I say "recipient."

The book itself was stapled and covered with a simple and fragile canary yellow paper. It has three good indexes to the tokens by geographical location and also to both identified (by name of company) and unidentified (by letters, abbreviations, etc.) tokens. This book is not listed in the second edition of A.N.A. Library Catalog.

In a review of the book by M. G. Hibbard in *The South African Numismatic Journal* №4 (November 1967) page 134, it is stated that the Africana Museum "has built up an enviable reputation for issuing (completely free of charge) many carefully compiled catalogues of the collections in its care." Thus not only was this book distributed free to me, it was also given evidently to whomever asked! This was also true for their other catalogues including *South African War Medals & Decorations* and *Commemorative Medals of the ZAR*. This practice must have been stopped sometime before 1980 because I had to pay \$7 to the Africana Museum for their catalogue *Commemorative Medals of South African Interest in the Africana Museum* in January, 1980. This book is also paper covered, but perfect bound and with a higher quality cover and pages. It contains x, 221pp, no illustrations, but a good bibliography and medals listed chronologically, with indexes to inscriptions, medalists, etc.

Maynard's book has been largely superseded by Dr. G.P. Theron's *Tokens of Southern Africa and Their History*, which he published in August, 1978. It is a soft-cover, perfect bound book measuring 20.5 x 14.4 cm and consisting of (viii), 159pp. This was followed sometime in 1980 by a blue, card-covered booklet of prices for these tokens, again by Dr. Theron. This booklet is slightly larger, measuring 21 x 14.8 cm and consists of 12 unnumbered pages, listing all tokens in his book but in only one grade - VF. He also includes and prices seven more tokens which were discovered after his book was published.

There are several other sources in the literature for information on Southern African tokens, including the following:

South African Numismatic Society Journal, №1-10 (Sept 1964-May 1978), listing almost every issue of 255 tokens from 112 different towns, companies, etc.

Newsletter of S.A.N.S., Vol. 4, №11 (June, 1955), article by Lt. Col. J. L. Knobel, lists more than 450 tokens from 64 geographical locations.

Monthly Bulletin of S.A.N.S. - frequent articles 1966-present.

Engelbrecht, C. L.; *Money In South Africa*, Cape Town, 1987, pg 126-130, 5 colored plates.

S.A.N.S., *Catalogue of Coins, Medals & Banknotes Exhibition*, Cape Town, 1964, pg 49-53.

Knobel, J. L., *The Token Coinage of South Africa*, in SANS Magazine, 1947, pg 27-30.

In addition, Spink offered several hundred South African tokens, many plated, in their *Numismatic Circular*, June and July/August, 1981. Spink did not assign provenance to this collection, but it was the property of Richard J. Ford of Troy, Michigan according to a personal letter to me from Dr. Theron.

A Bibliophile's Paradise: The 1992 Early American Coppers Convention and the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Library

Wayne Homren

As copper fans gathered in St. Louis for the 1992 Early American Coppers convention (April 2-5), the bibliophiles in attendance began comparing notes. In the hallway outside Thursday evening's Half Cent Happening, NBS members John Burns, Charles Davis, Wayne Homren, and Fred Lake exchanged greetings. Charlie had flown in from the Boston area and Fred had made the long trek up from Florida.

John and Wayne had driven from Pittsburgh that day. Their traveling companion was Robert Zavos, copper collector and fellow PAN member who recently held a buy-or-bid sale of his duplicate catalogues and periodicals. Other NBS members seen at the convention included Del Bland, Alan Davisson, Dan Demeo, Dennis Loring, Chris McCawley, Dennis Mendelson, Robert Metzger, Eric Newman, Phil Ralls, Jeff Rick, Terry Stahurski, and Tony Terranova.

The first topic of conversation was "Whodunnit?", that is, what nefarious prankster had recently sent bogus auction notices to several prominent bibliophiles as an April Fool's joke. The notices described a cache of literature including many catalogues in fine leathers which could only have come from the estate of B. Max Mehl. The auction was to take place at Mehl's former building in Fort Worth on Wednesday, April 1. A number of recipients were sufficiently intrigued by the notice to go to great lengths to contact the auctioneer "M. N. Daycius" (check "mendacious" in the nearest dictionary....).

Legend has it that after the 1935 ANA convention in Pittsburgh, George Clapp, having grown tired of Mehl's mannerisms, adopted the word "mendacious" for encoding information on coin holders in his collection. The 1992 prankster is as yet unidentified, although several in attendance had some well-considered theories.

Other conversation revolved around the question, "Where's Armand?" Armand Champa had planned to attend the convention, but last-minute scheduling difficulties scuttled his plans. Armand and other bibliophiles who skipped the convention missed a number of opportunities to see some rare and valuable numismatic literature. For example, two fine exhibits were on display throughout the convention. The first was Dennis Mendelson's collection, virtually complete as to editions and fine bindings, of literature relating to early coppers. Starting off with W. W. Hays's copy of Maris' 1869 work *Varieties of the Copper Issues of the United States Mint in the Year 1794* and continuing through Sheldon's *Penny Whimsy*, many of us saw for the first time an 1881 Andrews, 1870 Maris, 1923 Chapman, 1925 Newcomb in leather, and a 1931 Clapp in leather.

Another interesting exhibit consisted of a selection of various types of literature, leading off with a 1931 St. Louis newspaper article describing the prolific numismatic interests of an enterprising 20-year old named Eric P. Newman. The intervening years have not diminished Newman's zeal for

numismatics and penchant for acquiring knowledge. Newman's lifetime of collecting led to the formation of the Mercantile Money Museum at the Mercantile Bank Building in downtown St. Louis.

The Scouting Trip

Having spent the morning walking the bourse floor and chatting at Fred Lake's table, Charlie and I lunched together at a nearby restaurant. Conversation topics included recollections of a mutual friend and bibliophile, Bob Wester of New Hampshire whose library was about to be auctioned off. At Charlie's suggestion, we wandered off in search of The Money Museum, hoping to map out the area prior to Friday evening's reception. Several blocks and streetmap consultations later, we arrived at the Mercantile Bank building.

As luck would have it, Eric Newman greeted us in person. After introducing them to curator Thomas Serfass, he led an abbreviated tour of the Museum. Filling a large rectangular room, the museum held about forty cases of informative numismatic exhibits ranging from ancient to modern times. Two audiovisual mannequins representing Benjamin Franklin and an anonymous counterfeiter provided commentary relating to several exhibits. Newman's two-story office and library were located at the back of the exhibit area.

Several special exhibit cases were in preparation for the evening reception. When Mr. Newman was called away to a meeting, we were sure to verify that the library would indeed be open to visitors during the reception. Our appetite whetted, we returned to prowl the convention bourse floor.

The Reception

In an operation reminiscent of the 1988 Invasion of Louisville, three buses ferried E.A.C. members from the convention hotel to the Mercantile Bank around 5pm Friday. Awaiting them was a sumptuous catered buffet dinner in the upper lobby, just outside the Money Museum entrance. Long lines formed, but moved quickly, offering all a chance to taste a number of the available dishes with individual tubs of ice cream served for dessert. Mr. Newman and the Mercantile Bank deserve a heartfelt thank-you from E.A.C. for such a generous spread.

After dinner, people began filtering into the Museum. The bibliophiles made cursory examinations of the coin displays, feigning interest over the blazing early Half Cents and an unbelievable Silver Center Cent. Moving quickly to the rear of the museum, they descended upon the library.

The Newman Numismatic Library

The library is a two story office with a spiral staircase leading up to a mezzanine level. While the library's emphasis is on U. S. coins and currency, there was a good representation of literature on Great Britain and other countries. Visitors quickly became aware that this was a working research library, not a showcase. Ultra-rare items were placed upon the shelves alongside commonplace books, ordered by subject matter.



Eric Newman discusses his library with interested E.A.C.ers on the ground level as others ascended to the catwalk-like mezzanine level.



Jeff Rock fails to convince Newman that his recent Miller reprint is superior to Eric's 1920 original.

For example, both editions of Dr. Maris' legendary *Copper Issues of the Mint of the Year 1794* pamphlets (1869 and 1870) were found loosely tucked in with other Large Cent literature, without the full baby calf solender box one might encounter in another well known library. David Bullowa's copy of Riddell's rare 1845 *Monograph on the Silver Dollar* sat alongside other recently-published silver dollar books such as Miller's *Morgan and Peace Dollar Textbook*. An absolutely pristine copy of Newlin's *Half Dimes*, with an original (?) plain paper dust jacket still crisp, sat next to a Hewitt reprint of the same title.

Nearby were three copies of *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar*, co-authored by Newman, Bressett, Breen, and Glaser in 1962. Two of the copies were the rare initial printing, completed before the announcement of the discovery of the famed King of Siam proof set. Pasted on the flyleaf was a typewritten note signed by Newman:

This is the printing with the erroneous Chapter IX. It is not the final changed and corrected printing. By August 26, 1962 all the changes to 60 pages were written up by me but the book was not ready for sale until October 1962.

Chapter IX was originally titled "The Diplomatic Gift Delusion," and was later rewritten and renamed "The Origin of the 1804 'Originals.'" Nearby was a related item of interest, a scarce 1931 pamphlet by Wayte Raymond titled *The Stickney 1804 Dollar*.

Time flew quickly as experienced bibliophiles and the merely curious examined book after book, and listened intently to Eric's explanations. Charlie examined numerous auction catalogs, taking copious notes for his soon to be published book. Several visitors took photographs of the library, Eric, and the guests. In time, we reluctantly boarded the buses for the return trip to the convention hotel, where the E.A.C. Educational Forum was soon to begin. The capacity crowd was treated to interesting presentations and Q & A with presenters Eric Streiner, Phil Ralls, Dennis Loring, and Eric Newman, who discussed the centering of planchets at the early U.S. Mint.

The Return Visit

Back on the bourse floor Saturday morning, I found myself admiring Mendelson's Large Cent literature exhibit with Eric Newman. Ever the student, Newman's first remark was "Well, what can you teach me about this?" After reviewing the exhibit Newman wondered aloud how he would dispose of the large poster-sized drawing of a screw press he had made for the previous night's talk. I volunteered to take it off his hands, and soon was accompanying Eric out to his car to retrieve it. Realizing an opportunity was presenting itself to return to Newman's library, I inquired if we might be able to return to the Museum. To my delight, Eric quickly agreed. Realizing that others would also

jump at a chance to revisit the library, John Burns and Charlie Davis were quickly added to the guest list. Soon the foursome was soon back at the Mercantile Bank building, with the return to the library delayed slightly as Eric treated the group to ice cream cones at Woolworth's lunch counter.

How it All Began

Once at the library, the three of us scattered to examine literature in each of our areas of interest. Some of the items reviewed are listed in the next section. Somewhere along the way, I asked Eric how he came to be interested in numismatic literature.

It was around 1939 or 1940. Dealer B. G. Johnson operated the St. Louis Coin and Stamp Company and had recently sold a copy of S. S. Crosby's *Early Coins of America* to the St. Louis Public Library for \$25.00. Although he wanted a copy of his own, young Eric could not afford it. Soon he was borrowing many titles from both the public library and Johnson's private numismatic reference library.

Johnson's library included many books on foreign coins, but Eric had little interest in them at the time. Soon he began acquiring his own books, and by the time Johnson passed away, Newman had acquired a sizable basic library. He then acquired a number of needed titles from Johnson's heirs. Newman continued augmenting his library throughout the years, and today is still an active bidder in numismatic literature sales.

Selected Titles

Items which caught the eye of visiting bibliophiles include the following:

Brewster, Abel, *A Plan for Producing An Uniformity in the Ornamental Part of Bank or other Bills where there is danger of Forgery, and for furnishing the Public with a Convenient and Infallible Test for the same*, Philadelphia, 1810 (wherein Brewster calls Jacob Perkins a liar for claiming his system had been patented)

Douglass, William, *A Discourse Concerning the Currencies of the British Plantations in America, Especially with Regard to their Paper Money with a postscript thereto*, London, 1751 (a reprint of a 1740 Boston edition)

Eastman, H. G., *Eastman's Treatise on Counterfeit, Altered, Spurious Bank Notes, with Unerring Rules for the Detection of Fraud in the Same*, 3rd edition, 1859

Foote, H. C., *The Universal Counterfeit and Altered Bank Note Detector*. There were two editions of this little pamphlet, described as extremely rare by Kolbe (Adams sale, 6/18/90, lot 412). As the visitors were poring over the counterfeit

detector shelf, Newman inquired, "How many Footes do I have?" to which the reply was "Two, of course. Doesn't everyone?...."

Fry, Richard, *A Scheme for Paper Currency*, 1908 (reprint of a 1739 edition)

Gallahue, A.C., *Counterfeit Bank Note Expositor, or a Short System of Detecting Counterfeit Money*, New York, 1854 (ex-libris George and Melvin Fuld)

Gouge, William, *A Short History of Paper Money and Banking in the United States*, 2nd ed., 1835

Johns, John F., unpublished manuscript, *Part I: Continental Currency, Part II: The Continental Currency Historical and Explanatory*

Mickley, Joseph J., *Dates of U.S. Coins and Their Degrees of Rarity*, 1858

New York Coin and Stamp, April 23, 1892, *The Woodside Collection, with plates*.

W. Elliot Woodward, May 21-25, 1888, *Sale 95, Vicksburg I, with plates*.

What We Didn't See

What many visitors did not realize was than not all of Newman's library was at the Money Museum office. Many rare volumes are stored in bank vaults, such as the following:

Attinelli, E. J., *Numisgraphics, or A List of Catalogues in which occur Coins or Medals, Which Have Been Sold By Auction in the United States*, 1876

Ormsby, W. L., *A Description of the Present System of Bank Note Engraving*, New York, 1852

Perkins, Jacob, *Perkins' Bank Bill Test; consisting of original impressions from the Permanent Stereotype Steel Plates of Massachusetts Paper Currency*, 1809

Summary

The visit to St. Louis was a delight for bibliophiles, and we thank Mr. Newman for being such a gracious and generous host, and the Early American Coppers Society for creating the opportunity and providing such an enjoyable convention.

Collectors planning a trip to St. Louis should make a point to stop at the Mercantile Money Museum, Podium Level, Mercantile Tower, Seventh & Washington, St. Louis, Missouri, 63101. The Museum is open 9 to 4 daily, including weekends and holidays. Admission is free. For inquiries, call (314) 425-8199.

FROM THE EDITOR

¶ We thank Dave Bowers for noting in a recent *Coin World* column that the last issue of *The Asylum* got his vote for the best ever. We were non plused, however, by his referring to it as a "chatty newsletter."

¶ At the recent Long Beach Expo, bibliophile John Bergman acquired a bound volume containing unusual copies of two John Haseltine sales. The first was the April 9, 1873 Balmanno sale, printed on one side of the paper and on large paper. The second was the February 25, 1873 Chubbuck sale, with five photographic plates, printed on one side of the page, and in large format. A notation in the hand of J. Colvin Randall noted that this collection was the property of John Haseltine when sold, and that the special edition was one of five printed thus. This format was not reported by either Attinelli or Adams.

¶ Meanwhile, at the recent Garden State Numismatic Association show in New Jersey, we were shown a copy of Frank Stewart's 1924 *History of the First United States Mint*. While appearing to be the usual red cloth version, this copy contained a presentation inscription from the author noting that it was one of a few copies bound with an extra plate. The plate turned out to be a sepia toned portrait of the author bound in between the second and third signatures. We would be most interested to know if any of our readers have seen a similar copy.

¶ We thank Pete Smith and Wayne Homren for expressing their support of and willingness to participate in our periodical index project. Obviously if the project has any chance of getting off the ground, not to mention succeeding, we will need a more more grass roots interest level, and we look forward to hearing from additional Society members.

THE PRINTER'S DEVIL

Joel Orosz

America's last frontier is Alaska; space, or so Star Trek assures us, is the final frontier. But in the world of numismatic literature, there is no end of frontiers to be explored. Even in recent and popular series like Bowers and Ruddy, there is still one unplumbed area, namely The Triple Cities Coin Exchange. Dedicated bibliophiles have compiled lists detailing the publications of the Empire Coin Company, Hathaway and Bowers, Bowers and Ruddy, and Bowers and Merena. Dave Bowers was a dealer on his own from 1955 to 1958, and again briefly in 1960, and Jim Ruddy went solo in 1960 and early in the 1970s, but these solitary efforts produced only a handful of publications, all quite familiar to bibliophiles.

Jim Ruddy's first individual dealership initially under his own name, then as the Triple Cities Coin Exchange, lasted from 1953 to 1958 and produced a few publications, most noticeably the catalogue of the Claude Collier sale in 1956. Most of these emissions were quite ephemeral, and to the best of your columnist's knowledge, have never been enumerated. What follows is a provisional listing of Jim Ruddy's price lists, an effort which certainly contains omissions. Although Mr Ruddy himself has contributed to it, his files are undoubtedly incomplete; he created these lists as "snapshots" of his inventory at a given moment and never meant them to be saved. Besides, during the Eisenhower era, who would have dreamed that anyone would care about price lists more than three decades into the future?

James F. Ruddy, a researcher at the ANSCO division of the General Aniline and Film Company of Binghamton, New York, placed his first ad in the national numismatic press in the July 5, 1954 issue of *Numismatic News*. For the next three months, he did business simply under his own name. Only one publication is known from this brief interlude in Jim Ruddy's dealership. This is a one pager (8½x11) headed by James F. Ruddy/ 25 Spruce Street/ Johnson City, N.Y., which is flanked by illustrations of two large cents: to the left a Flowing Hair Wreath type, and to the right a Liberty Cap type. This list is not dated. Its body consists of three columns of coins for sale and are headed respectively by "Large Cents," "Indian Cents," and "Nickels."

Although there is no date on the list itself, we do know the date of issue as Ruddy himself has a copy in his files marked "October 1954." This is confirmed by his ad in the October 20, 1954 issue of *The Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine*, a quarter pager found on page 1260. This ad offers many of the same coins that are featured in the list, although there are some variations as well. The advertisement, by the way, was headed "Triple Cities Coin and Stamp Exchange" which suggests that the October 1954 list was the last to be issued under the banner of James F. Ruddy.

The second list that we know of proves that "Triple Cities Coin and Stamp Exchange" was also a short-lived name for Jim Ruddy's business. This 8½x11 two page list, which also comes from Ruddy's files, was issued in December 1954, although the copy itself is undated. It is headed by the shortened banner "Triple Cities Coin Exchange;" so much for philately! There are no illustrations flanking the header as there were on the previous list, but there is a depiction of a Draped Bust Large Cent on the second page. Again, confirmation of Jim Ruddy's dating can be found in the *Scrapbook*, for this list is repeated verbatim (except for the large cent illustration) on page 1471 of the December 20, 1954 issue.

The third known list is in the collection of your columnist and is also headed "Triple Cities Coin Exchange." Like the first two, it is printed on 8½x11 paper, produced on a duplicating machine, and omits a date of emission sequence of any kind. Unlike the first two, however, it lacks illustrations and has been expanded to three pages. Page 1 of the list offers large cents and is identical to the Triple Cities ad in the September 20, 1955 number of the *Scrapbook*. Page 2 of the list (Half Cents to Half Dollars) matches the October 20, 1955 Triple Cities ad in the same publication. The third page featuring Indian Cents does not match any known published advertisement.

The fourth and final known list also resides in your columnist's collection. It is identical to the third list physically, although the material it describes is somewhat different. Standing Liberty Quarters and Indian Cents on page one; more Indians and wholesale lots are on page 2, and an assortment of Large, Indian and Lincoln Cents along with Two Cent pieces comprise page 3. The most interesting thing about this copy of that list is that portions of page 2 have been overscored with red pencil, presumably by Jim Ruddy, to indicate coins which had been sold. This list was issued about February 1956 for some of the material overlaps with the Triple Cities ad in the *Scrapbook* for February 20, 1956. These last two lists formed the subject of an article published in *Rare Coin Review* №87 (Bowers & Merena's house organ) entitled "A Numismatic Whendunit" and is partially illustrated on page 46 of that publication.

In summary, we know of four lists issued by Jim Ruddy. One was distributed in October 1954 under his own name, and three were sent out under the banner of Triple Cities - December 1954, September 1955, and February 1956. The long gaps after 1954 suggest that there are probably other lists that are undiscovered or at least undescribed, and some that are perhaps gone forever. They were so ephemeral, after all, that few were saved. At any rate, as any new finds are described, this list will quickly become obsolete. This is, of course, as it should be. As Sherlock Holmes cried, "The game's afoot!"



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1793 VG Wreath full date lib. end lettering \$35.00	1857 VG 1.00	1867 VG-F	\$ 1.00
	1858 F 2.50	1868 F	1.25
1794 F 8.00	1858 VG 1.50	1869 F	2.00
1797 Fr 1.50	1859 F 1.00	1882 VF Dark	1.50
1800 VG Fine pits 1.50	1860 F 1.00	1883 Br. Unc.	.50

TRIPLE CITIES COIN EXCHANGE

GOLD!

The best investment today	1834 VF	15.00
Gold Dollars	1835 VI plus	15.00
1850 C ss. XF rare - small nick on rev. rim	1838 XF	20.00
100.00	1843 ab. Unc.	25.00

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LARGE CENTS

1793	S 11 B L.F. VG-F Planchet chip, rev. incused on obv., rare	\$50.00	1812 G	1.50
1794	S 30 F-VF dark	17.50	1813 S 292	7.00
1794	S 59 R4 G	4.00	1813 S 293	10.00
1794	S 62 R5 Obv. G rev. Fr.	5.00	R2 VG-F	4.50
1794	S 69 R4 Obv. F rev. V.Fr.	12.00	1814 S 294	4.50
1794	G	3.00	1814 S 295	1.50
1795	S 77 R4 Obv. VG rev. G	8.00	1814 G-VG	Highest degree of
1795	S 78 F+	15.00	1816 N 1 R6	rarity VG 10
1795	Obv. VG rev. Fr.	6.00	1816 F	10.00
1796	S 91 R3 L.Cap. Obv. VG rev. V. Fr.	12.00	1817 N 14	2.00
			1817 N 16	VF+ sharp
			1817 N 16	F-VF 15 stars
			1817 N 16	G+ 15 stars
				7.50
				1.75
				4.00

TRIPLE CITIES COIN EXCHANGE

Standing Liberty Quarters

VG	VG-F	F	VF	XF
1917 I		\$ 1.00		\$ 3.00
1917 S I	\$3.50		\$ 7.50	
1917 D I		2.25		8.00
1917 II	1.75		3.50	
1917 D II				

TRIVIA QUIZ

1. An American numismatic dealer reprinted only titles by authors whose name began with his own last initial. Name him and three titles he reprinted.
2. A favorite coin for embossing on the front boards of eighteenth century works was the 1849 Double Eagle. Name at least three titles depicting this coin.
3. Name The first American catalogue with photographic plates.
The first American catalogue with color plates.
The first American catalogue with halftone plates within the text.
4. The careers of two American cataloguers began with auctions that closed on the same day. Combined, their sales numbered nearly 450. Who were they?
5. By 1916, every copper and silver denomination, except one, authorized in the eighteenth century was supported by a standard reference work. What was lacking, and by what nomenclature is it now referenced.
6. In December, 1911, B. Max Mehl suspended publication of *The Mehl Monthly*. What reason did he give?
7. In what year did the A.N.A. allow sales of coins (ie a bourse) in addition to the traditional exhibits at Annual Conventions?
8. What was the first auction sale, public or mail bid, to be comprised entirely of numismatic literature?
9. What do Edgar Adams, Jeremiah Colburn, Thomas Mabbott, David Prosker, and Jack Collins all have in common?
10. What is wrong with this letterhead?

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Numismatist

Fort Worth, Texas

November 23rd, 1931.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

P. Scott Rubin

As this issue is published just prior to the A.N.A. Convention in Orlando August 11-16, I would like to remind each of you that we have a Club table, and I hope that you will stop by to say "Hello." There, we will be glad to discuss with you participation in the periodical index project suggested in the last issue, your becoming a regional representative for N.B.S. or any other issue you may wish to address. Only a few members have indicated interest in these two area, and we need to show more support from the membership to make these activities work.

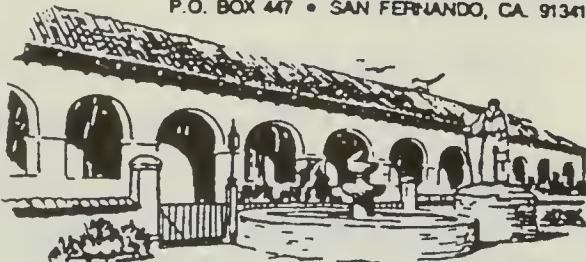
We are an international organization and would like to see your area of interest lead to an article in *The Asylum*. If you find what you collect to be of interest to you, I am certain there are others who will find it interesting to them. The byword for members should be contribute.

Congratulations to David Hirt for sending in the lone correct solution to last issue's trivia quiz, the answers for which are as follows.

"A" Sale	Woodward	Leonard & Co
Bryant	Low	Daniel Kennedy
Bushnell	Chapman Bros	Bangs & Co
Crosby	Haseltine	Bangs & Co
Deats	Frossard	Geo Leavitt & Co
Dickeson	Mason	Birch
Durand	Smith & Sampson	Bangs & Co
Finotti	Woodward	Irving Buildings
Gay	Strobridge	Clinton Hall
Gregory	S. II. Chapman	Samuel T. Freeman
Hills	Low	Boyd
Lilhendahl	Strobridge	Bangs, Merwin & Co
MacKenzie	Cogan	Leavitt, Strebeigh & Co
McCoy	Woodward	Cooleys
Merritt	Frossard	Bangs & Co
Newcomb	Raymond & Macalister	Morgenthau
Stickney	Henry Chapman	Davis & Harvey
Thurston	Harzfeld	Bangs & Co
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American Numismatic Literature

An Annotated Survey of Auction Sales 1980-1991

edited by
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We are pleased to announce the first all-in-one bibliography for numismatic researchers and bibliophiles alike. *American Numismatic Literature* is a compilation of extracts from over 100 auction sales of numismatic literature coupled with the editor's observations as to numismatic quality, utility, and rarity. Over 1,200 titles important for American numismatic research including standard references, monographs, periodicals, and sale catalogues are listed. For scarce or rare works, all known auction appearances during the past 12 years are cited, and for titles more readily available, a representative sample is included. While the extracts taken as a whole will indicate a work's past availability and its value in terms of dollars, sidenotes have been provided to give our observations of its numismatic merit, the quality of production, binding or textual variants not seen at auction, or bits of related numismatic lore. And for all catalogues listed in John Adams' *Numismatic Literature, Volume 1* and Elder sales in *Volume 2*, we have noted the coins depicted on and production quality of each plate. George Kolbe, who was kind enough to review early drafts, notes:

"A remarkable job ... A wonderful addition to American numismatic bibliography. I look forward to seeing it in print soon."

The book will be 8½x11" format, 230 pages, and is being published by Quarterman. It is currently at the publishers, and we anticipate a late September availability. Three bindings are being offered:

- Black cloth, 500 copies \$85.00
- Half leather, marbled endpapers, slightly larger paper, bound by Alan Grace, limited to 35 numbered copies \$225.00
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If you are unable to attend any of the major literature sales please consider our services. We will research values, carefully view all lots and represent your interest faithfully and confidentially. We have already made plans to attend the August 17, 1992 Empire Coins sale of ancient literature to be held the day following the A.N.A. Convention, in Ormond Beach, FL and the George F. Kolbe sale of the Dennis Mendelson Library, mid October, in Long Beach, CA. For further details, contact:

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